

### 1. Which class should I take first? Econ 251 or Econ 252?

It does not matter which one you take first. They are both introductory classes that study the economy. The two courses teach complementary analysis of the overall economy and help you understand the world we live in. Just choose the class that fits best with your schedule. You will need to take both courses for the major. **We advise you to take the second course the following semester.** Learning economics is similar to learning a new language. It is a new way of speaking and analyzing. Once you develop those skills in the first course, it is easier to build off them if you take the second course the following semester.

Both courses satisfy the Social Science core requirement. Economics 251: Principles of Macroeconomics examines how a spike in oil prices, for example, affects a country's unemployment, inflation, and trade and how monetary and fiscal policy can be used to stabilize the economy. In contrast, Economics 252: Principles of Microeconomics examines how the higher oil prices affect individual consumer and business decisions.

### 2. What do Economic students double-major or minor in?

It depends on your interest! Economic majors double major in many other offerings at St. Thomas – all business majors, languages, political science, engineering, math & statistics, actuarial science to name a few. Why so many options? Economics, the study of how people use their scarce resources, provides a unique perspective and understanding of the world at large.

### 3. What opportunities are available outside the classroom?

The Department of Economics encourages students to further sharpen their quantitative and analytical skills outside of the classroom. Each spring, we sponsor a data competition for our Economics majors and minors to compete for prize money. We also send students to compete in external data competitions. In the spring of 2021, Economic students won the MinneMUDAC data competition sponsored by MinneAnalytics, beating schools across the Midwest region. **In the fall of 2021**, our students came in second place in the at-

monetary policymaking plan for this prestigious national competition. In addition, we encourage students to get involved in research. Due to a generous anonymous donor, the Economics Young Scholars fund supports students pursuing undergraduate economics research.

